

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 1713

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, JA

SUBJ: PRIMIN TANAKA FACIAL NEURALGIA

REF: TOKYO 810

1. CHIEF JUSTICE BURGER COURTESY CALL ON PRIMIN KAKUEI TANAKA EARLY AFTERNOON JANUARY 30 PROVIDED EMBOFF ESCORTS OPPORTUNITY FOR CLOSE-UP OBSERVATION OF LATTER, WHO CONTINUES TO UNDERGO THERAPY FOR QTE STELLATE GANGLION BLOCKAGE UNQTE. IN PERSON, SWELLING OF PRIMIN LEFT CHEEK SEEMED MORE PRONOUNCED THAT APPARENT FROM RECENT NEWS PHOTOGRAPHS, AND OCCASIONAL FLASHES OF CHARACTERISTIC VIGOR DURING THIRTY-MINUTE CALL CONTRASTED SHARPLY WITH LONGER PERIODS OF RELATIVE QUIET. OVERALL, IMPRESSION WAS THAT PRIMIN HAS NOT RECOVERED FULLY FROM BOTHERSOME FACIAL CONDITION, AND THAT FATH OF RECENT SEA VISIT HAS BEEN INCREASED BY HECTIC POLITICAL SCHEDULE WHICH AWAITED HIS RETURN.

2. CHIEF JUSTICE BURGER EXPRESSED SYMPATHY FOR CONDITION, BUT PRIMIN WAVED SUBJECT ASIDE, REPLYING THAT FACIAL NEURALGIA INCONVENIENT BUT DOES NOT INHIBIT HIS ACTIVITY IN ANY WAY. NEVERTHELESS, PRIMIN ADDED SOMEWHAT GLUMLY THAT SUCH

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AILMENT

USUALLY REQUIRES QTE HUNDRED DAYS OF THERAPY UNQTE.

3. MEANTIM, DR. BUNKICHI WAKASUGI (CHIEF OF ANESTHESIOLOGY) CONTINUES TO BRIEF PRESS ON PRIMIN CONDITION FOLLOWING ALMOST EVERY VISIT TO KANTO TEISHIN HOSPITAL FOR THERAPY. AFTER JANUARY 24 TREATMENT HE TOLD PRESS THAT PRIMIN'S QTE MENTAL AND PHYSICAL FATIGUE UNQTE WHICH CAUSED BY OVERWORK COULD PROLONG NEED FOR THERAPY, AND COULD POSSIBLY BRING ABOUT RELAPSE OF SYMPTOMS OF FACIAL NEURALGIA EVEN AFTER RECOVERY. HE TOLD PRESS THAT PRIMIN REPORTED THAT QTE IT EASIER FOR ME TO EAT UNQTE FOLLOWING JANUARY 27 TREATMENT, WHICH IDENTIFIED AS TWENTY-SECOND IN SERIES. HOWEVER, IN SAME BRIEFING HE EXPLAINED THAT HE HAD CAUTIONED PRIMIN AGAINST OVERWORK IN DIET, PARTICULARLY DURING BUDGET COMMITTEE HEARINGS BEGINNING NEXT DAY. FIRST OPTIMISTIC PROGNOSIS WAS DELIVERED AFTER FEBRUARY 1 TREATMENT, WHEN DR. WAKASUGI TOLD PRESS THAT PRIMIN REPORTED THAT HE COULD AGAIN WASH OWN FACE WITH SOAP. THIS INDICATES ALMOST COMPLETE RECOVERY QTE AROUND EYE UNQTE, DR. WAKASUGI SAID, BUT ADDED THAT THERAPY MUST BE CONTINUED THROUGH MONTH OF FEBRUARY.

4. COMMENT: TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE PRIMIN TANAKA'S FACIAL DISORDER HAS NOT INTERFERED WITH HIS NORMALLY HEAVY SCHEDULE, DESPITE THE ADDED BURDEN OF MAKING FREQUENT VISITS TO THE HOSPITAL FOR TREATMENT. TEISHIN HOSPITAL IS LOCATED IN GOTANDA, SOME FIFTEEN MINUTES DRIVE FROM THE PRIMIN'S OFFICIAL RESIDENCE. ALTHOUGH FOREWARNINGS OF A LESS THAN CORDIAL WELCOME IN SOME SOUTHEAST ASIA NATIONS GAVE RISE TO MUTED AND ABORTIVE DISCUSSIONS WITHIN THE LDP AND GOJ THAT THE PRIMIN'S MALADY MIGHT FURNISH A VALID DIPLOMATIC EXCUSE TO POSTPONE HIS VISIT, WE HAVE NOT HEARD SINCE HIS RETURN FROM THAT VISIT ANY SERIOUS SUGGESTION THAT THE PRIMIN'S HEALTH HAS AFFECTED HIS ABILITY TO PERFORM HIS DUTIES. END COMMENT. SHOESMITH

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